

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 15-29 have been cancelled and new dependent claims 53-63 have been added to the application. Each one of the new claims 53-63 depends on one of the allowed independent claims, i.e., claims 37-52. In addition, claims 44 and 50 have each been amended to correct a minor informality of a clerical nature.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

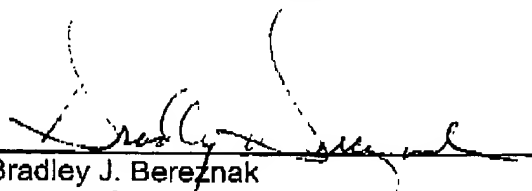
Claims 15-20, 22-27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seagle (US Patent # 5,764,446; "Seagle"). Claim 21 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Seagle in view of Hamakawa, and further in view of Kitao et al. (US Patent #. 6,198,600; "Kitao"). Finally, claim 21 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Seagle in view of Hamakawa, and further in view of Mino (US Patent #. 6,188,544). Since claims 15-29 have been cancelled, the foregoing rejections are rendered moot.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance.

Please charge any shortages of fees or credit any overcharges of fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-2060.

Respectfully submitted,
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